

## LARRY MATLOCK

Larry Matlock, breeder, trainer and owner of Quarter Horses died at the age of 55 of cancer. He was a trainer of record, saddling 199 QH winners with earnings of \$368,812.00 during his short career at the race track. He ran horses in Florida, New York, New Mexico, the Midwest, and finally in Arizona where he also established a breeding farm.

Matlock was not only interested in the breeding and racing of Quarter horses, but in promotion of racing. His constantly active mind produced ideas ranging from activities to better the sport to where to put the popcorn stand in the clubhouse. Always opinionated, always open to anyone who would listen to his ideas, Matlock proposed new programs and changes to existing programs that would make racing more exciting to the fan, more lucrative to the owner, and more fun for everyone. One of his ideas which came to fruition was the Arizona Triple Crown, the forerunner of the existing Desert Classic Triple Crown.

Matlock's love of children and horses led him to form a horse club for children in Kansas City where area children could come to learn about horses and be able to ride them without having to purchase or take on the responsibility of owning a horse. After being diagnosed with cancer in 1991, he became involved with children suffering from cancer. Through his efforts, Turf Paradise established an annual Rainbow Kids Day at which children from the cancer center and their families can visit the grounds, meet the jockeys, take rides on the pony horses, and spend a day at the race track.

Larry Matlock is being inducted today into the Arizona Quarter Horse Hall of Fame in honor of his achievements and the gifts he brought to Arizona Quarter Horse racing. Accepting the plaque are his son Rodney, his daughter Sherri, and his pony horse Biue.